

Advisory Team: English Learners

MINUTES

JULY 19, 2017

9:00 TO 11:00 AM

PLYMOUTH STATE UNIV.
CONCORD, NH

ADVISORY TEAM LEAD	Aaron Hughes (NH DOE facilitator)
NOTE TAKER	Aaron Hughes
ATTENDEES	Caroline Butler, Bob Cioppa, Nancy Allen, Julie Couch
	Karen Boxell, Karen Goyette and Mary Lou Donahoe (questions and comments via email)
OBSERVERS	None
PRE-READ MATERIALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current NH ESOL guidance document (https://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/integrated/esol/documents/esol_guidance_revised_9-8-15.pdf) Current monitor form: <i>Monitoring/Exit/Re-entry in Program</i> (https://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/integrated/esol/program_doc_forms.htm) Worksheet titled NH ESOL Guidance 2017-18 (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nzO8HDqFeleQ1xTNEoRLS_05d-Z50mt-XBAjU02AC4A/edit)

DISCUSSION	Key Topics & Tasks
<p>OBJECTIVES FOR MEETING:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To review comments and questions regarding ESSA State Plan To review and revise NH ESOL Guidance for 2017-18 <p>A. Brief Introduction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduling is more complicated during the summer months, and last minute cancellations/postponements were made. Some members submitted questions and comments via email. Although the advisory did not have enough members to hold a quorum, the group did agree to review issues related to specific ESSA questions and concerns broadly and to confirm previous decisions and recommendations made by the EL Advisory and/or SEA. <p>B. Reviewing comments and questions from stakeholders</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Comment from NH's ESSA Survey (#846 submitted 10/3/2016 10:32 PM) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Not sure. Success of students continuing and graduating from pse or well employed would be more meaningful than standardized testing. Producing students who can and do move up to the next grade level successfully, or to a higher course level successfully are also better indicators than standardized testing. Tests should be for teachers to understand what the student is ready for, rather than to prove the success of the school to distant boards. I think focus on grad rates has led to lack of opportunity for ELL math students in 9-12th--due to fear of encouraging students to take on challenge, lest the student fail and not graduate. Perhaps consider proportion of non-IEP students in high school who move up from remedial math to college prep level math --or similarly in other subjects, with the goal of always achieving more, not just graduation requirements. SAT is designed to be a college admission test; fee waiver eligible students should NOT be asked to use their fee-</i> 	

waiver for the state assessment, as many need to use their limited fee waivers at the most appropriate time for their college admission &/or college scholarship eligibility. If students are in the wrong math class when given the state assessment, they are placed at a disadvantage for college admission testing when they use their fee waiver for state assessment; this happened last year. Perhaps also a focus on having a lower number of suspensions and negative behavioral outcomes; or find a way to measure schools that develop creative ways to engage students in positive civic behavior; focus on the number and ways of students who participate positively in the community—including working, while succeeding academically.

ii. General remarks/feedback from the group

1. There is agreement that assessments should not be the only indicator for students' successful development. The group discussed PACE and the implementation of performance assessments (it was suggested that the EL Advisory connect with Sanborn, Concord, Rochester and other PACE school districts regarding performance-based language proficiency indicators and measuring student growth)
2. The group briefly discussed the differences in these "high stakes tests" from state to state. Then it was mentioned the NH is officially out of Smarter Balanced assessments. Testing stays the same as previous years for grades 3-8 ELA and Math; however, the testing grades for science are now 5, 8 and 11.
3. NH will continue to require SAT in 11th grade. The State pays for every student to take the SAT; therefore, the fee waiver is not used. The group echoed the importance of the comments and concerns in #846 regarding graduation credits, math course requirements, and scheduling, and the group mentioned that at the local level parent participation and self-advocacy should be encouraged.
4. The field liked seeing the NH ACCESS 2.0 2017 results aggregated by cluster. Scores of attempted will be given to "non-recordings." Baseline scores will be given which will allow for the calculation of Composite Scores for these students, and this will be resolved by WIDA.
 - a. The group wanted to note that headphones are important consideration—ensure the quality of hearing and recording device prior to testing.

b. Questions from the districts/EL Advisory members

- i. Will the 4 years of monitor status apply to the students who are currently completing their *Monitor Year 2* in academic year 2016-17? Also, why should we change the monitoring to 4 years if the testing is more stringent?
 1. This year's *Monitor Year 2* students will become former ELs. EL's who have achieved a composite score of 5 or higher, and therefore entering Monitor Year 1 for 2017-18, will be on the monitor for 4 years cycle. (ESSA implementation begins academic year 2017-18)
 2. Having more students in the EL sub-group may provide better aggregate results to view a district's ESOL program's successes and/or challenges. It is important for all school community professionals to take ownership of ELs. It is not the sole responsibility of the EL teachers. This extended monitor range will hopefully bring more comprehensive awareness of the abilities of the ELs recently exited from services.

- ii. Since the State's approved screener tool has changed, what about the W-APT for Kindergarten, will it change in the near future?
 1. The Kindergarten W-APT will remain for the near future. Some changes may come, but nothing major is expected in the next two years.
 2. LEAs will not be able to access any assessment materials for the W-APT grades 1-12 after July 21, 2017. The replacement for W-APT is the [WIDA Screener](#). The [WIDA MODEL](#) is still an approved screener tool in NH as well.
 3. SEA WIDA Screener—Paper trainings have begun and the next is August 8th at the NHDOE 101 Pleasant Street. Questions should be directed to Aaron Hughes at NHDOE, ESOL Consultant.
 4. WIDA Screener—Online training is scheduled for September 12th location TBD. WIDA Screener—Online is free to districts and is part of the contract the SEA. The WIDA Screener—Paper is not paid for by the SEA and must be purchased at the LEA/school level. Questions should be directed to Julie Couch at NHDOE, Assessment Administrator.
- iii. Will schools be required to identify preschoolers for ESOL services?
 1. The SEA encourages LEAs to identify potential ELs in their preschool programs; however, these potential ELs are not to be identified using a screener tool. Preschoolers may be identified by using a recently completed Home Language Survey (NHDOE ESOL Program) along with a consultation with the child's parents/guardians and teachers (documentation of consultation is necessary). All preschoolers determined to be potential ELs will receive official screening in kindergarten with an appropriate screener.
 2. Barring extenuating circumstances, a screening tool should only be administered once, and it is important not to misidentify children as ELs. Therefore LEAs must ensure their staff are appropriately trained to administer the screener to the child, and administer the

C. NH ESOL Guidance

- a. The group worked around general topics in the state's guidance, however did not delve deeply into this document. EL Advisory folder (Google):
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B6nc-AcvbcskZzJRS1IBUnNEa1E>
 - b. Work to be continued through Google Documents and email.
- #### D. Request for next EL Advisory Meeting
- a. Mid-August is preferred by group members in attendance.
 - b. Aaron Hughes will help coordinate it.

CONCLUSIONS		
Reviewed questions and comments regarding testing and screening English Learner from various stakeholders Confirmed and clarified the EL Advisory's recommendations around kindergarten and preschool identification for ESOL		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Coordinate next EL Advisory Meeting	Aaron Hughes	July 28
Review and edit NH ESOL Guidance 2017-18 (worksheet) https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nzQ8HDgFeleQ1xTNEoRLS_05d-Z50mt-XBAjU02AC4A/edit	EL Advisory	continuous